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Front Page  
Edn Page  
Other Page

Date:

## French Partisans Blast Naming Of Speidel as NATO Army Chief

Paris, Feb. 4 (AP)—Former resistance fighters and French Jewish and Communist front organizations are protesting nomination of West Germany's Gen. Hans Speidel as commander of Allied land forces in Central Europe.

Letters flooded into the French cabinet this week-end demanding action to prevent Speidel from being given command over French soldiers. Some written protests were addressed also to President Coty.

The Communist newspaper Humanite Dimanche today devoted several pages to photos of Speidel in Paris during the Nazi occupation. A big picture on its front page showed Speidel with Hitler in 1940.

Speidel already has issued a "vigorous and complete denial" of a French newspaper report that he called the French army untrustworthy.

The leftist, but non-Communist weekly Aux Ecoutes said in a recent issue that Speidel made

this charge in a secret letter to Allan Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

It quoted his letter as saying "It is impossible for our (West German) future army to trust the French high command . . . The penetration of politics into all (French) military wheels . . . soon will make impossible any French-German cooperation in European defense organizations."

A spokesman for Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) said Speidel conveyed his flat denial of "a crude and grotesque invention" in a telephone conversation with Gen. Von Kiehnsegg, West German representative at SHAPE.

Speidel said he never had had any contact with Dulles and would have no reason to send him a secret report.

In Washington, Dulles called the report that he had received a communication from Speidel "ridiculous and false."

One French military figure has risen to Speidel's defense.

Gen. Marie-Emile Beihouart, who commanded French forces on the Danube during the last days of the war, wrote to the newspaper Figaro denouncing the propaganda of certain "interested parties against Speidel's appointment."

He recalled that Speidel had been jailed with a group of officers suspected of being implicated in the general's plot against Hitler and earlier had shared responsibility for refusing to obey Hitler's order to destroy the Paris bridges when the French capital was liberated by the Allies.